Rec'd 9.10

INTERVIEWS OF WILLIAM C. WOOD, a/k/a BILL BOXLEY, BY GEORGE E. RENNAR

INTRODUCTION: I interviewed BOXLEY ("B" hereinafter) in Dallas on 30 Aug, 31 Aug and 3 Sep 71. The results of these conversations are set forth below. The talks dealt mainly with charges and allegations made by others against B. Some interesting digressions are included. My interpolated comments are in brackets. MARY FERRELL was present during most of the talks.

B AT CIA: B's job at CIA was training foreign agents. He was overseas for more than a year, then returned to DC to join a staff of six for over a year. He taught his classes from case histories of CIA operations. For field work, his students would attempt to operate in DC. If they could do so successfully, under the noses of the FBI, they could do so against any counter-espionage agency in the world. B's first wife also was CIA, and they were overseas on the same operation.

B left the CIA in 1953, and has had no further contact with it, except a couple of times to pass on information which had come to his attention.

B had a serious drinking problem while he was at CIA. He was not asked to resign, although CIA apparently was not too depressed at his leaving. The CIA tried to help him with his drinking problem, and B still has feelings of admiration and respect toward CIA.

The student who contacted GARRISON's office about being recruited was talking about WILLIAM B. WOOD, a longtime overt CIA recruiter who lives in Austin and has an office in Waco, right next to the FBI. After B was fired, he went to talk to the man, but he was hostile. Maybe as early [sic] as the fall of 1967 B told GARRISON, TOM BETHELL and one or two others, about WILLIAM B. WOOD.

HOW B WENT TO WORK FOR GARRISON: B never investigated the ROSE CHERAMIE case, and it had nothing to do with his coming to work for GARRISON. B did hear Louisiana State Police Col. BEN MORGAN and his investigator, Lt. FRANCIS FRUGE, talk about it. CHERAMIE supposedly recounted the story to them when they were flying her to Houston to make a drug pickup.

In mid-April, 1967 B was an editor on the Houston Tribune, working fo THEODORE N. LAW, and wanted stories on GARRISON. B's source was BEN MORGAN. FRUGE was at the Holiday Inn, and after B called MORGAN, MORGAN told FRUGE to contact B. B got together with FRUGE, MELOCHE and a girl at the Houston Tribune.

B intended to get a job with GARRISON or with the WACKENHUT organization, which had been hired by Florida's Governor KIRK to work on the MAFIA. B, who had not been to New Orleans since 1955, was hired by GARRISON after a two-hour interview.

GARRISON asked B to take a polygraph and B agreed. A day or two aft he was hired, the States-Item had a headline on OSWALD being linked CIA at Atsugi. B got scared that perhaps GARRISON was using him as

B once picked up ten hundred-dollar bills at an office to deliver to ROSE for his trip to Seattle to investigate FRED LEE CRISMAN. ROSE bought a car for the trip.

B cites ROSE's possession of the First Secretary's card as reason for suspicion of his status. Also, once ROSE was staying at the Ramada Inn. He had picked up a couple of B's habits, like wearing a pin and smoking Benson & Hedges. B entered the inn to call ROSE on the house phone. There was a pay phone next to it, in front of which was an empty Benson & Hedges box with a phone number written on it. B picked it up. He called ROSE, who came down and they talked. B showed him the box and razzed him about being a better operative than to leave an identifiable telephone number lying around. ROSE admitted it was his handwriting, but did not seem excited and left the box lying on the table where B put it. The number was that of DELTA AIR FREIGHT. B checked, and ROSE had no air freight coming or going. Cf. the use of airlines as clandestine government communications channels.

THE MAFIA CONTRACT ON GARRISON: B feels that this was legitimate, that the MAFIA was out to kill GARRISON.

He does not know the real story

When the office heard the allegation, LYNN LOISEL said he had better contact REGIS KENNEDY, then stopped dialing and said IVON would want to do it. IVON agreed /B seems to consider this significant, for reasons unknown to me -- GER/. So LOISEL called the State Police instead.

At the time, GARRISON was in Albuquerque, and was going to head from there to Los Angeles. B had Albuquerque deputy sheriff's credentials number 313 /B did not recognize the irony until I mentioned it -- GER/ so he phoned the Sheriff's office. Deputy JOHN GONZALES said he would assign immediately five men to guard GARRISON.

B flew to Albuquerque, in part to act as bodyguard for GARRISON, mostly because nobody else wanted to. GARRISON had spoken the night before and insisted on getting to Los Angeles that night because he had a date. An ice storm had grounded the airlines, and GARRISON wanted to rent a private plane. They finally managed to fly on Western or Frontier to Denver, then by United to Los Angeles. GARRISON ended up that night at STEFANINO'S on the Sunset Strip. GARRISON had told B to contact the LAPD regarding the MAFIA contract; two members of the Vice Squad entered STEFANINO'S. One said to B, "You stupid son of a bitch. Are you supposed to be his bodyguard?" B said he was, and was told that STEFANINO'S was the biggest MAFIA joint in town. The cops bellied up to the bar, and within seconds the cocktail lounge almost emptied. GARRISON was in the dining room, and one of the LAPD officers said that one of those he had chased off was a shotgun artist "sitting at a table right across from your boss."

B feels the MAFIA contract was cancelled "by people of great influence" because killing GARRISON would make a martyr out of him, but a court defeat would discredit him.

BRADLEY AND THE LOS ANGELES TRIP: GARRISON stayed at the International Hotel at the airport. He registered as CLYDE BALLOU, and the desk clerk grinned.

GARRISON was not converted to charging BRADLEY once he was in Los Angeles, he went there intending to get BRADLEY for something. The day after the STEFANINO'S incident, TURNER came down with some BRADLEY photos and an advance copy of the Jan 68 Ramparts. B and TURNER went to see AYDELOTTE and THORNHILL. When shown a photo of the "WALKING MEN," AYDELOTTE's comment was, "GENE always did wear his shoes run down at the heels." The day after, B and TURNER went to see DENNIS MOWER in Lancaster. They had to go through intermediaries and be checked out before they met him. About the third day, GARRISON ordered that BRADLEY be charged. GARRISON was hunting for BRADLEY for "a special reason." B is playing hide-the-ball with the reason, and will say only that he is not proud of the reason but that it was not any personal vendetta.

GARRISON sent JAFFE to New Orleans with instructions to charge BRADLEY. The staff refused; in any event, JAFFE was considered a lightweight. B, when informed, went to a pay phone and called the office. ALCOCK said they were in the middle of a staff meeting and that nobody would sign the complaint. GARRISON had a tantrum and said he would fire them all. But B talked him into phoning. GARRISON spent thirty minutes on the phone and the complaint was signed.

B had not heard that JACK LAWRENCE, HALL, HOWARD and SEYMOUR were to be charged, too. If this was the case, nobody told him. It was not B and TURNER, but DICK BILLINGS and Life, who had GARRISON running after HALL, HOWARD and SEYMOUR. They lost interest in GARRISON as he lost interest in their favorite suspects. As to JACK LAWRENCE, GARRISON later was searching for a reason to charge him with anything he could.

B never said that BRADLEY was a killer, or even that he was in CIA. Some witnesses claimed BRADLEY was in covert FBI activities under a Naval cover. Then there was BRADLEY's important role in the J. EDGAR HOOVER for President activities. B felt that if anything, BRADLEY was FBI.

The allegation has been made that B claimed ERIC STARVO GALT met BRADLEY, and that the Van Nuys WALLACE for President office was just a front. B denies this, and never even heard of the allegation before.

In Los Angeles, everybody was jumpy over the MAFIA allegation. B says that Sacramento and the LAPD, as well as a telephone tip, said there was such a contract. GARRISON and B had met LARRY SCHILLER earlier that evening. Also, B was with GARRISON when he insulted a Los Angeles Times reporter named DREYFUS because he did not like that paper. So B was in his room trying to paper the insult over; GARRISON was in his own room, not B's. A bellhop knocked and handed B a manila envelope, unmarked, with something hard inside. It was a copy of SCHILLER's book, but B was jumpy so he placed it in the bathtub (but without running any water) and closed the door. Later he opened it and learned what it was.